

U.S. Influence in Africa Assessment Model Internship



Project Title	U.S. Influence in Africa Assessment Model Internship
Project Summary	This internship will develop a reproducible model to assess U.S. political influence across the continent of Africa built on internet-based data sources. The model will be developed by the intern based on political, international relations, or anthropological analysis.
Country	Germany
Country/Region of Focus	Africa

Project Description

The intern will identify related open-source datasets that are updated yearly as well as a convincing method of using those datasets to produce instructive insight on where, why, and with whom the U.S. is gaining, maintaining, or losing political influence across 53 African countries. Although the intern will only conduct one or two iterations of the assessment, i.e. one for 2018 and one for a prior year to suggest trends, the model created by the intern is intended to be used by DOD staff to monitor changes over time. The intern will build upon the work of a team of researchers at the Naval Postgraduate School. The intern will present their work to assessment, strategy, and programs-focused staff.

Required Skills or Interests

Skill(s)

Data analysis

Data visualization

Political Analysis

Research

Additional Information

The central question behind the assessment is, "What causes political influence between countries?" We will provide some research on the subject to the intern, but we hope the intern can add to the discussion as they conduct research on the topic. Based on this answer, the intern will determine what data is needed to assess existing influence and find open source datasets to fill those requirements. Familiarity with online datasets, such as World Bank, UN, USAID, Afrobarometer, etc. and knowledge of African politics are important. Ability to read other languages widely used in Africa is an additional plus. The intern will be one of several joining us and will liaise with experts in the field of African international relations. AFRICOM staff will provide guidance, feedback, recommendations, connections to a community of practice, and government/international relations career mentoring. Interns can opt to be featured on an APAN site for related researchers and for interns who turn in final products, AFRICOM staff will provide a letter of recommendation.

Language Requirements

None